

Appl. No. 09/623,643
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 7 March 2005

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 4 and 7-10 are pending in the application.

The applicants thank the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings. However, the applicants respectfully decline to add the headings. Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC 111(a), but are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77").

The Office action rejects claims 4, 7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Connell et al. (USP 5,998,978, hereinafter Connell) and Sakaki (USP 6,035,357). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4, upon which claims 7 and 10 depend, claims a mobile data carrier that includes a data-processing circuit with asynchronously operating logic elements whose signal-processing rate is dependent on a supply voltage applied to the data-processing circuit.

The Office action acknowledges that Connell does not teach asynchronously operating logic elements whose signal-processing rate is dependent on a power supply voltage applied to the data-processing circuit, and relies upon Sakaki for this teaching. The applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of Sakaki.

The Office action asserts that Sakaki teaches a data-processing circuit with asynchronously operating logic elements whose signal-processing rate is dependent on a supply voltage applied to the data-processing circuit at col. 3, lines 12-16; col. 5, lines 36-39; and col. 8, lines 36-37. The cited text follows:

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